

MILESTONES OF EARLY LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

Babies learn best from caring adults. From birth, it's important for parents to notice and *respond* to what interests their child. Reading aloud and talking together *every day* creates secure relationships and a strong foundation for learning. Books should be part of *every* family's naptime, playtime, and bedtime routines.



	6 TO 12 MONTHS	12 TO 24 MONTHS	2 TO 3 YEARS	3 TO 4 YEARS	4 TO 5 YEARS
MOTOR DEVELOPMENT <i>What your child is doing</i>	<p>holds head steady</p> <p>sits in lap without support</p> <p>grasps book, puts in mouth</p> <p>drops, throws book</p>	<p>holds and walks with book</p> <p>no longer puts book in mouth right away</p> <p>turns board book pages</p>	<p>learns to turn paper pages, 2 to 3 pages at a time</p> <p>starts to scribble</p>	<p>turns pages one at a time, and from left to right</p> <p>sits still for longer stories</p> <p>scribbles and draws</p>	<p>starts to copy letters and numbers</p> <p>sits still for even longer stories</p>
COMMUNICATION AND COGNITION <i>What your child is saying and learning</i>	<p>smiles, babbles, coos</p> <p>likes and wants your voice</p> <p>likes pictures of baby faces</p> <p>begins to say "ma", "ba", "da"</p> <p>responds to own name</p> <p>pats picture to show interest</p>	<p>says single words, then 2- to 4-word phrases</p> <p>gives book to adult to read</p> <p>points at pictures</p> <p>turns book right-side up</p> <p>names pictures, follows simple stories</p>	<p>adds 2-4 new words per day</p> <p>names familiar objects</p> <p>likes the same book again and again</p> <p>completes sentences and rhymes in familiar stories</p>	<p>recites whole phrases from books</p> <p>moves toward letter recognition</p> <p>begins to detect rhyme</p> <p>pretends to read to dolls and stuffed animals</p>	<p>can listen longer</p> <p>recognizes numbers, letters</p> <p>can retell familiar stories</p> <p>can make rhymes</p> <p>learning letter names and sounds</p>
ANTICIPATORY GUIDANCE <i>What parents can do</i> <i>Ask questions and wait for your child to answer</i> <i>Read and speak in your first language</i>	<p>talk back and forth with your baby; make eye contact</p> <p>cuddle, sing, talk, play, read</p> <p>point at and name things: nose, ball, baby, dog...</p> <p>follow baby's cues for "more" or "stop"</p> <p>play games such as "peek-a-boo" or "pat-a-cake"</p>	<p>smile and answer when your child speaks or points</p> <p>let your child help turn the pages; keep naming things</p> <p>use books in family routines: naptime, playtime, bedtime; on the potty; in the car, bus</p> <p>use books to calm or distract your child while waiting</p>	<p>ask "Where's the dog?" or "What is that?"</p> <p>be willing to read the same book again and again</p> <p>as you read, talk about the pictures</p> <p>keep using books in daily routines</p>	<p>ask "What happens next?" in familiar stories</p> <p>point out letters, numbers</p> <p>point out words and pictures that begin with the same sound</p> <p>together, make up stories about the pictures</p>	<p>relate the story to your child's own experiences</p> <p>let your child see <i>you</i> read</p> <p>ask your child to tell the story</p> <p>encourage writing, drawing</p> <p>point out the letters in your child's name</p>
WHAT TO READ	<p>board and cloth books; books with baby faces; nursery rhymes</p>	<p>board books; rhyming books; picture books; books that name things</p>	<p>rhyming books; picture books that tell stories; search and find books</p>	<p>picture books that tell longer stories; counting and alphabet books</p>	<p>fairy tales and legends; books with longer stories, fewer pictures</p>

LET YOUR CHILD CHOOSE WHICH BOOK TO READ. FIND STORIES ABOUT THINGS YOUR CHILD LIKES.